



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

October 14 Minutes

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2009 MEETING

In attendance: Paul Bayer, Susan Elberger, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Joey Glushko, Clare Gordon, Elizabeth Karpati, Ryan Katofsky, Shannon Koenig, Josh Lobel.

- The **minutes** of the September meeting were approved as presented.
- **Town Day** went well, with beautiful weather and good attendance. Diversity had a representative from the Sudanese Center; Sustainable Arlington and Spy Pond publicized their projects (details below). Consensus was that we probably had too many handout items; next year we could try a single sheet with information about what all the different task groups are doing (this would require starting preparing it earlier).
- **Task Groups:**
 - Environment – Sustainable Arlington: (1) Energy Solutions Fair planned for October 21 with several vendors; Town officials including the weatherization group have also been invited. (2) A group called “350.org” is planning nationwide events on October 24; its name refers to the target for reducing CO2 in the atmosphere (it is now 385 ppm vs. a pre-industrial 285 ppm). (3) AHEET (Arlington Home Energy Efficiency Team) is a project for a group of volunteers to weatherize a leaky house, with the homeowner paying only for the relatively inexpensive supplies. It is a good opportunity for high school students to earn community service credit. (4) Ryan is working with Mark Miano to find a location for a solar panel which can be bought with matching funds earned by the attempt to sign up 150 new households a year for buying sustainably generated electricity. (5) SA wants to be involved in the planning for rebuilding or renovating the central fire station.
 - Environment – Spy Pond: Phase 1 of the phragmites control project (spraying the reeds growing in water) has been carried out. Information and requests for contributions were distributed at Town Day; the Vision 2020 booth was “adorned” with a sample of the phragmites.
 - Diversity is encouraging attendance at the upcoming series of events connected with the Town-wide book read. On November 7 there will be a family event involving the Sudanese.
 - Finance got an update from the Town Manager on the dire financial situation and is working on the next five-year plan.
- **Census survey:**
 - Consensus that it should include more education and a smaller survey portion (only 2 pages) and should support the 2010 federal census.
 - The group leaned toward focusing on transportation and parking. Josh will start to draft the survey portion; suggestions should be sent to him.
 - Some points that were mentioned: Surveys should include some information about the use made of survey results from previous years. Survey questions should be the kind that make people think. E.g., consider transportation and parking needs for the future, when oil will be scarcer, not just for today; keep in mind that “T” service may have to be cut back.
- Josh reported that the Arlington Educational Enrichment Fund and the Arlington Schools Fund are merging, and they have suggested that the new fund for supporting after-school activities should merge with them, but Josh thinks the new fund should remain independent at least until it establishes its identity.